



**Corrections Working Group
Meeting Notes
Date Held: Thursday, April 5, 2012**

Attendees: Commissioner Joseph Ponte (MDOC); Sheriff Glenn Ross (Penobscot County and CWG Co-Chair); David Allen (Jail Administrator – Somerset County Jail); Col. Mark Westrum (TBRJ - Jail Correctional Administrator); Tim Leet; MCCA President Amy Fowler; Bob Devlin (County Administrator – Kennebec County); Executive Director Michael Tausek (BOC); John Connolly; Scott Ferguson; Marsha Alexander (Kennebec County Jail – Corrections Administrator); Ed Quinn (Jail Administrator – Oxford County Jail); Sheriff Randy Liberty (Kennebec County); Will Russell (Nt'l Correctional Employees Union); Will Russell (Nt'l Correctional Employees Union); Elizabeth Simoni (Maine PreTrial Services); Sheriff Maurice Oullette (York County).

CWG Members Absent: Cynthia Brann (Assoc. Comm. For Adult Services); Ralph Nichols (Dir. Of Operations).

Topic 1: Sheriff Glenn Ross chaired meeting and reported:

- Successfully proposed for CARA presentation to be moved to front of the agenda to accommodate the media and the crowd;
- Governor LePage was signing the Law Enforcement Solicitation bill at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon and he planned to attend; and
- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled during the week that jail officials do not violate the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by requiring an arrestee, admitted to the jails general population, to undergo a strip search - even if the arrestee's immediate offense was minor in nature and no reasonable suspicion existed (e.g. previous institutional history, possession of contraband, possession of a weapon, etc.) to warrant the strip search (A memorandum from Diane Sleek, AAG, regarding this issue was made available to all attendees).

Topic 2: PowerPoint Presentation of CARA Program and Veteran's Initiative Program By Capt. Marsha Alexander and Sheriff Liberty

1. CARA (Criminogenic Addiction and Recovery Academy) and is an intensive five-week behavior-intervention program that targets a participant's criminal thinking, anti-social beliefs and attitudes and substance abuse issues. Participants live separately from general population in a therapeutic community milieu. The program is implemented at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility and is operated in collaboration with Crisis and Counseling Centers. CARA is endorsed and sanctioned by the SBOC. CARA participants represent (10) different county facilities and (1) MDOC facility. Community support comes from (11) different stakeholders that include, but not limited to, Volunteers of America, Maine Pre-Trial Services

and NAMI. The Kennebec County Correctional Facility is requesting \$338, 000 to help fund the program. Capt. Alexander reported the following costs associated with the program:

- Work Ready - \$42,978.00
- Parenting Program(s) - \$4,875.00
- DSAT - \$127,764.00
- Correctional Staff - \$168,000.00

Capt. Alexander mentioned that KCJ will financially absorb any remaining monies needed to fund the program, which is estimated at \$250,000.

To date, CARA has completed 10 pilot classes (47 males/18 females) and 10 rounds of programming (73 males/18 females) and have had 156 total participants.

Topic 2: BOC Executive Director Reported:

- His recent site visits to several county and regional jails (Oxford, Knox and Waldo);
- Aroostook County Jail's budget submission to meet the proposed 1% reduction target for FY 13 and the Financial Impact Narrative;
- The importance of county and regional jails submitting their projected FY 14-15 biennial budgets; and
- The Budget Focus Group meeting held yesterday at the Kennebec County Commissioners Conference Room in Augusta.

Topic 3: Fiscal Agent Scott Ferguson Reported:

1. on the March 13, 2011 Fiscal Agent Report. Scott spoke to the Total FY 12 Anticipated Revenue of \$17,821,203; Total FY 12 Anticipated Expenses of \$17,962,469; and the projected Total FY 12 Remaining balance of (\$141,266). He also reported that the Investment Fund balance as of February 29, 2012 is \$2,754,251.

Topic 4: NIC Visit:

1. CWG Co-Chair Sheriff Glenn Ross reported on the selection of two NIC consultants (Becky Nay and Rod Miller) and the benefits of a proposed study for State of Maine county corrections system. The mission of the study is still being worked on and it was mentioned that Rod Miller plans to attend the Sheriffs Retreat in Bethel on May 14th. BOC Chair Mark Westrum advised county and regional jail officials that there would be some preparation work involved with the NIC study and any assistance by county corrections staff would be helpful. It was also mentioned that the study must take into consideration past findings and recommendations of the CAAC report.

Topic 5: Motion on Budget Focus Group Activity:

1. While discussing FY 13 budget requirements and anticipated Budget Focus Group expectations, the Corrections Working Group unanimously passed a

motion (Fowler/O'Connell) to have the Budget Focus Group:

- Complete a Historical Budget Data and expenditure trends for each county and regional jail;
- Assess whether each County or Regional Jail mathematically met the proposed 1% reduction;
- Verify where the reductions were made; and
- Make a judgment call as to whether the proposed reductions are considered "reasonable".

2. ED Tausek reported that audits have been completed at the following counties: Aroostook, Hancock and TBRJ and are awaiting final approval by an appropriate party.

Next Corrections Working Group Meeting:

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully prepared by,

Timothy Leet and Michael Tausek

MCCA staff
MEETING of 4-5-12

File: J/ Tim/UPDATE ON CWG